

## Message Text

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SUBJ: LIBERAL LEADER REJECTS "FORMAL COOPERATION" WITH  
SOCIAL DEMOCRATS

SUMMARY: LIBERAL LEADER POUL HARTLING HAS REJECTED "FORMAL  
COOPERATION" WITH THE RULING SOCIAL DEMOCRATS (SDP) AND  
SAID THAT MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT FURTHER THE "SEPTEMBER  
COMPROMISE" HAVE YET TO BE AGREED UPON. IN ORDER TO HOLD  
THEMSELVES OUT AS THE ONLY FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO A SOCIAL  
DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, THE LIBERALS WILL CONTINUE TO RESIST  
EXPLICIT IDENTIFICATION WITH THE SDP. END SUMMARY.

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1) IN PRESS STATEMENTS, LIBERAL PARTY LEADER, AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER, POUL HARTLING, HAS REJECTED ANY "FORMALIZED COOPERATION" IN A GOVERNMENT MADE UP OF LIBERALS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS.

2) HARTLING SAID HE BELIEVED THAT MOST OF THE DANISH PEOPLE DO NOT WANT ELECTIONS NOW. "IT WOULD BE BEST NOT TO HAVE ANY ELECTIONS IN 1976." THIS DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, HARTLING EMPHASIZED, THAT THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS CAN "JUST GO AHEAD" IMPLEMENTING THEIR POLICIES.

3) SHOULD AN "EMERGENCY ARISE IN DENMARK", HARTLING ADDED, HE WOULD NOT REJECT SOME SORT OF GOVERNMENT COALITION BUT THE PURPOSE OF THE LIBERALS IS TO BE IN OPPOSITION AND THE PARTY'S CLEAR AIM IS AN EVENTUAL LIBERAL GOVERNMENT.

4) HARTLING ALSO OBSERVED THAT LARGE PORTIONS OF THE SEPTEMBER COMPROMISE AMONG FIVE PARLIAMENTARY PARTIES (SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, LIBERALS, RADICALS, CHRISTIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY AND CENTER DEMOCRATS) REMAIN TO BE IMPLEMENTED. THESE PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED, HARTLING SAIDN BUT NOT ALONG SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LINES NOR, FOR THAT MATTER, ALONG LIBERAL LINES ALONE.

5) COMMENT: WE WERE RECENTLY TOLD BY SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY NOTABLE AND PARLIAMENTARIAN, KNUD DEMGAARD, THAT HE BELIEVED PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN WOULD TRY TO BROADEN THE BASE OF HIS GOVERNMENT BY ATTEMPTING TO INCLUDE THE LIBERALS AND THE OTHER PARTIES OF THE CENTER AND RIGHT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF GLISTRUP'S PROGRESSIVES. DAMGAARD SAID JORGENSEN WOULD HOPE TO REPEAT HIS SUCCESSFUL TACTICS OF LAST AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER.

6 AT THAT TIME, JORGENSEN OBTAINED THE AGREEMENT OF THE SMALLER PARTIES AROUND THE LIBERALS TO COOPERATE IN THE SO-CALLED "SEPTEMBER COMPROMISE". THE LIBERALS, WHO HAD REFUSED TO SIGN ON, HASTILY DID SO WHEN THEY DISCOVERED THAT THEY WERE OUT IN THE PARLIAMENTARY COLD WITH ONLY GLISTRUP'S PROGRESSIVES (AND THE SMALL, DIVIDED CONSERVATIVES) AND THE THREE PARTIES OF THE FAR LEFT.  
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7) HARTLING'S SPEAKING OUT SO FORTHRIGHTLY MAY BE AN ATTEMPT TO FORESTALL A SIMILAR TACTIC BY THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS NOW. THE LIBERALS SEE CLEARLY THAT, IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THEMSELVES AS THE ONLY REAL ALTERNATIVE TO A SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, THEY MUST RETAIN THEIR SEPARATE IDENTIFY. HARTLING IS ALSO UNDOUBTEDLY CORRECT IN HIS ASSESSMENT THAT THE DANISH VOTER DOES NOT WISH TO

FACE YET ANOTHER ELECTION.

8 THE LIBERALS MUST THEREFORE TREAD DELICATELY BETWEEN COOPERATION WITH THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ON THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC AND UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS, ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE WISH TO MAKE POLITICAL CAPITAL OUT OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC "MISTAKES", ON THE OTHER. CURRENT ASSESSMENTS HOLD THAT THERE WILL NOT NOW BE A MAJOR CONFRONTATION OVER THE PARTS OF THE SEPTEMBER COMPROMISE REMAINING UNIMPLEMENTED. BARRING AN UNEXPECTED CRISIS, PROSPECTS LOOK GOOD THAT THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WILL CONTINUE IN GOVERNMENT FOR THE REMAINDER OF 1976.  
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